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Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Subject: Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share the attached fact sheet regarding Armenia's latest attacks on Azerbaijan. On September 27, 2020, the armed forces of Armenia, by using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers, and artillery, launched attacks against positions of Azerbaijan, causing human casualties and raising tensions to a new, dangerous level.

Please see attached for more information and let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Mark

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**Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America
Washington, D.C.**

FACT SHEET

ARMENIA'S LATEST ATTACKS ON AZERBAIJAN

- On September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia, by using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery, launched attacks against positions of Azerbaijan causing human casualties and raising the tensions to a new dangerous level.¹
- Armenia's forces continue to shell populated residential areas of Azerbaijan contrary to obligations under international humanitarian law. A targeted artillery fire in Naftalan region killed all five members of a family.² So far **13 Azerbaijani civilians, including 2 children were killed while more than 40 were wounded** and hospitalized. Extensive damage has been inflicted on many homes and other civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens.³ Moreover, while the Azerbaijani army made it clear it will follow rules of war and does not intend to target civilians, the Armenian army places its firing points inside the residential areas using civilians as a human shield.
- The Nagorno- Karabakh region and surrounding districts are not a "**disputed territory**" but an internationally recognized part of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The term "disputed" does not apply in this case. Azerbaijan has no military objectives on the territory of Armenia and presently **all fighting is taking place within the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan.**
- The latest provocation by Armenia follows the 12-14 July attacks against Azerbaijan across the international border in the Tovuz region, where Azerbaijan lost military servicemen, including one general, and a 76-year-old civilian.⁴ Importantly, the area of the July attacks in Tovuz is in the vicinity of regional oil and gas pipelines, a vital part of Europe's energy security.⁵ Similarly, the transportation

¹ <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/6876/view>; <https://mod.gov.az/en/news/armenian-armed-forces-committed-large-scale-provocations-along-the-entire-length-of-the-front-32311.html>

² <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/6882/view>; https://apa.az/en/nagorno_garabagh/Five-members-of-a-family-killed-as-a-result-of-Armenian-shelling-colorredOFFICIALcolor-331354

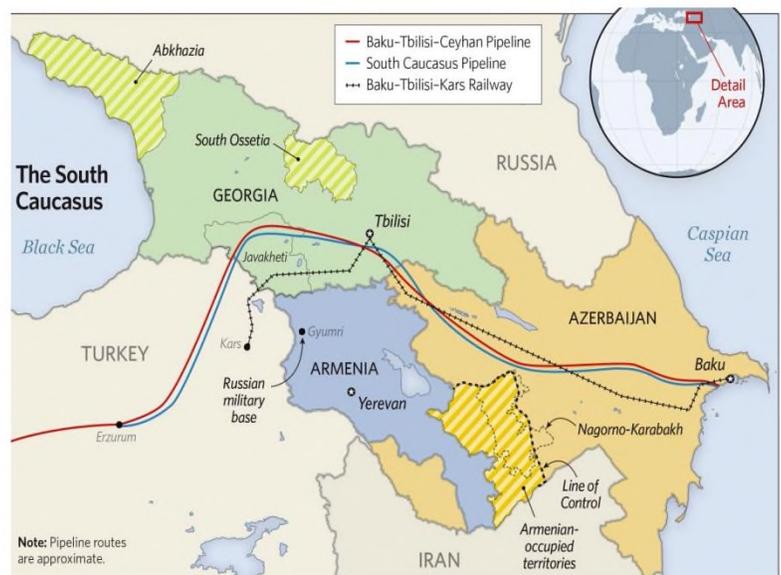
³ <https://photo.azertag.az/post/-qurbanovlar-ailesi-ermeni-texribatinin-qurbani-oldu-aile-uzvlerinden-ikisi-mektebli-idi--dunya-ermeni-fasizmini-gorsun-foto--22842>; <https://photo.azertag.az/post/ermenistanin-dinc-ehaliye-xain-hucumlari-terterlileri-qorxutmur--azertacin-terterden-fotoreportaji-22830>; <https://photo.azertag.az/post/ermenistan-fasizminin-eybecer-sifeti-dusmen-mulki-sexsleri-hedefe-almagda-davam-edir-%E2%80%93-azertac-hadise-yerinden-xeber-verir--22836>

⁴ <https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/azerbaijan-covid-pompeo/2020/08/05/id/980732/>

⁵ <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2020/07/17/armenia-azerbaijan-conflict-energy-security/>

infrastructure and the air corridor connecting Europe and Asia, including NATO transit to Afghanistan, pass through the same territory.

- Armenia's leaders have been actively undermining the ongoing peace process led by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chaired by France, Russia and the U.S., and continue to ignore international calls for substantive peace talks.⁶ It is clear that Armenia is already set to pursue the realization of its Defense Minister's pledge in early 2019 to wage "new wars for new territories" and to "prepare for new offensive operations."⁷



- The ongoing large-scale deliveries of weapons from Russia over the Iranian territory have intensified over the last several months and further contribute to the rising tensions.⁸
- Armenia attempted to expand the scope of the conflict during the cross-border attacks in July by involving its treaty allies within the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Currently, the Armenian side conducts a coordinated disinformation campaign, including completely fabricated allegations about Syrian fighters traveling to Azerbaijan or an Armenian fighter jet being shot by the Turkish air force.⁹ **None of these falsehoods have been verified or proven.** This propaganda campaign by Armenia aims to distract attention from atrocities against the civilian population of Azerbaijan as well as to provoke a third-party involvement in the current hostilities. **There are no foreign fighters on the Azerbaijani side.** On the contrary, Armenia has long been involved with Middle Eastern terrorism, sets up illegal settlements of Lebanese Armenians in the occupied Azerbaijani territories and sent a military contingent to participate in the Syrian civil war on behalf of the official Damascus.
- Armenia's leaders promote the false narrative of Turkey's involvement in the conflict. While Azerbaijan appreciates Turkey's moral and diplomatic support as well as its clear demand to end Armenia's illegal occupation in full accordance with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and its membership in the Minsk Group, **Turkey is not directly involved and is not a party to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.**
- Azerbaijan has been consistent in urging substantive and result-oriented negotiations to achieve a breakthrough in the conflict for the benefit of the whole region.

For further information:

Phone: (202) 337-3500

⁶ <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/may/19/pandemic-highlights-the-protracted-azerbaijan-armed-conflict/>

⁷ <https://mediamax.am/en/news/armypolice/38503/>

⁸ <https://eurasianet.org/aliyev-airs-grievances-to-putin-over-arms-shipments-to-armenia>

⁹ <https://www.aneews.com.tr/turkey/2020/09/29/azerbaijan-turkey-not-involved-in-armenia-conflict>;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haXztEdW2rg>; <https://www.reuters.com/article/armenia-azerbaijan-turkey-denial-int-idUSKBN26J16K>

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